IX. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion implements the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 with a view to promote industrialization and employment generation in the region. NEIIPP 2007 has several components such as capital investment subsidy @ 30% of the investment in plant and machinery without any upper sealing, interest subsidy of 3% on working capital loan availed by the industrial unit, 100% reimbursement of insurance premium and 100% income tax and excise duty exemptions etc. Under NEIIPP, 2007, 140 Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandums / Letters of Intent have been received in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

WRITTEN ANSWERS UNSTARRED TO QUESTIONS

Coal production

1641. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has reportedly asked the State Governments to fast-track coal output in the country;

(b) if so', the number of coal blocks/mines allocated by Government during the last four years, indicating the number of such blocks that have become operational, as on date;

(c) how many hectares of captive blocks are lying idle, indicating the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government proposes to appoint a coal regulator to help in expediting the process of coal production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of coal blocks allocated during the last four years is given below:-

Year	No. of coal blocks allocatted
2005-06	43
2006-07	34
2007-08	53
2008-09	19

Out of the above coal blocks allocated, one coal block has come into production. Remaining blocks are at various stages of development.

(c) Allocation of coal blocks is done on the basis of quantum of geological reserves. The coal blocks allocated upto May 2009 contains geological reserves of about 45 billion tonnes. 25 coal blocks containing geological reserves of about 2.29 billion tonnes have come into production so far. The remaining blocks are under different stages of development. Coal mining projects have a relatively longer gestation period on account of time involved in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other statutory clearances.

(d) A proposal for setting up of an independent regulatory body for coal sector is under consideration of the Government. Setting up of a regulator involves enactment of legislation by the Parliament. Appointment of an independent regulator for coal sector would result in more optimal development and conservation of coal resources, more effective regulation, adoption of best mining practices, rational pricing, better distribution, evolution of a more competitive market etc. It would also help in creating a level playing field for new entrants in the coal sector.

Allocation of coal blocks

1642. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had allocated several coal blocks to power genera'tion companies for exploration at their respective captive mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, showing the size of coal blocks allocated to respective companies, the basic terms and conditions and consideration for such allotment, during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether these allottees have developed the mines, as per the terms of allotment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the action taken and/or contemplated against those allottees who failed to comply with the conditions, showing their identities; and

(f) the salient details of revision in extant policy contemplated, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of coal blocks with geological reserves allocated to various public/private sector companies for power generation during the last five years is given in the Statement (*See* below). The basic terms and conditions of allocation of coal blocks, *inter-alia*, include that the coal extracted from the blocks should be used exclusively in the specified end-use by the allocattee and that the coal block has to be developed as per the milestones prescribed.

(c) and (d) The coal blocks allocated are in different stages of development.

(e) As per the guidelines, coal production from a coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of under ground mine, from the date of allocation. If the coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report. The allocatees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project. Further, the progress of development of coal blocks and end